

Delaware Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
March 14, 2013

Approved as final April 26, 2013

Materials Distributed*:

Agenda
Draft summary of January meeting
Written comments from the public engagement sessions

*materials distributed will be available online:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/DESLRAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

Key Discussion Points:

Old business

Sarah Cooksey, Delaware Coastal Programs (DCP), welcomed the Advisory Committee and thanked everyone for their continued participation and help in the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee over the years, and especially helping at the recent Public Engagement Meetings in February.

The updated draft summary of the January 2013 meeting was approved as final.

Comments from SLRAC members about the Public Engagement Sessions

Several of the Advisory Committee members shared thoughts, questions and other information they received at the Public Engagement Sessions. Public input shared by Committee members ranged from funding questions about who and how the options would be funded, to beach nourishment, to too much government involvement. Other concerns were brought up about real estate disclosure forms and how it would be decided which properties would be affected and how those decisions could be appealed. There were concerns about how the Adaptation Plan and implementation of the options may lead to changes in flood insurance rates, as well as that the Plan is being brought forward at the wrong time given the current state of the economy which may lead to inaction.

Several Committee members felt they were able to educate the public on the importance of wetlands, explain what it means when it is said that Delaware is sinking, and that the options are going to be presented to municipalities to decide which adaptation options to incorporate in their individual communities.

The question of why these ideas are being presented as options and not recommendations was asked to several Committee members. Susan Love, DCP, explained that they were presented as options at the Public Engagement Sessions since the Committee had agreed that they did not want the public to think that the Committee had agreed on the options that were being discussed. The intent will be to refer to them as recommendations when the final draft of the Adaptation Plan is presented to Secretary O'Mara.

Timeline for Adaptation Plan

Susan Love discussed the Adaptation Plan timeline:

April 26 - Advisory Committee meeting to finalize the list of previously discussed options, proposed new options, finalize guiding principles, determine the course of action for funding, and agree on a path forward for implementation.

May 23- Hold an Advisory Committee meeting to distribute and review a Draft Adaptation Plan and finalize any new options that have been proposed.

June- Advisory Committee meeting to review comments from the Committee and make necessary changes to the draft and then release draft for a 30 day public comment period.

July- DCP staff will compile and send out comments received on the draft to Committee members.

August- Advisory Committee meeting to approve a final draft of the Sea Level Rise Adaption Plan to present to the Secretary.

September- Design and print plan and possibly have a press event to publicly release the final draft.

October- Kick off implementation!

After the final draft of the Adaptation Plan is approved, the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee will be disbanded and hopefully an Implementation Team can be created in the fall of 2013.

Kurt Reuther, Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security, recommended that the options be given short term, medium term, and long term designations; that measurement tools need to be in put in place; and that the Adaptation Plan needs a narrower focus, elevating only 5 key options into recommendations.

Presentations

Jim Eisenhardt, Cardno Entrix, presented the Economic Analysis of the Delaware Bayshore, which can be found here:

http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Shoreline/Documents/DE%20Bay%20Beach%20Workgroup/FINAL_Legislative_Workgroup_Presentation_0914121.pdf

Secretary Collin O'Mara thanked the Committee for their continued support and assistance, and answered some questions from Committee members.

Mike Powell, DNREC, presented information about the status of floodplain map updates and the Biggert-Waters Act. If you had further questions about the information that he presented, you can contact him at mike.powell@state.de.us.

John Callahan, DE Geologic Survey, presented on the Delaware's coastal storm early warning system, available online www.coastal-flood.udel.edu

Public Comments

Peggy Schultz, League of Women Voters, congratulated Susan Love on a job well done and provided a quote about how the current list of options was being viewed as a comprehensive list of options from other professionals in the field, outside of Delaware. Additionally, Mrs. Shultz discussed how local jurisdictions make the regulations, but the state need to pay for them (in regards to floodplains and flood levels). Development needs to stay out of the floodplain and follow a program similar to Newark's where residents actually receive a reduction in flood insurance.

Rick Allen, Alliance of Bay Communities, agreed that the Committee has done a stellar job at keeping on track.

John Mateyko, Lewes Beach, echoed the same sentiment- that the Committee has done a very good job.

Adjournment

The next Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2013.

Attendees:

Rick Allen, Alliance of Bay Communities
Tricia Arndt, DE Coastal Programs
John Callahan
Richard Collins, Positive Growth Alliance
Sarah Cooksey, DE Coastal Programs
Greg DeCowsky, DNREC DWHS
Barbara DeHaven, DE Economic Dev. Office
Jennifer De Mooy, DNREC Energy and Climate
Molly Ellwood, DE Coastal Programs
Jerry Esposito, Tidewater Utilities, Inc
Andrea Godfrey, Office of Management and Budget
Brenna Goggin, DE Nature Society
Mary Ellen Gray, Kent County
James Gross, Bethany Beach
Mary Ellen Gray, Kent County
Connie Holland, DE Office of State Planning and Coordination
Quinn Johnson, DE General Assembly House of Rep
Richie Jones, The Nature Conservancy
Jim Kirkbride, Wilmington resident
Michael Kirkpatrick, DelDOT

Don Knox, DEMA
Nancy Lawson, Dover resident
Victor Lentonoff, Lewes Town Council
Susan Love, DE Coastal Programs
Bill Lucks, Delaware Realtor's Assoc.
John Mateyko, Lewes resident
Neelam Patel, DNREC Energy and Climate
Richard Perkins, DE Division of Public Health
Kurt Reuther, DE Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security
Ralph Satterfield, Little Creek
Bob Scarborough, DE Coastal Programs
Peggy Schultz, DE League of Women Voters
Jeff Shockley, Sussex County
Chris Sommerfield, Univ. Of Delaware
Pam Thornburg- Bakerain, Delaware Farm Bureau
Chad Tolman, DE League of Women Voters
Kelly Valencik, DE Coastal Programs
Bart Wilson, Center for the Inland Bays
Kevin Whittaker, Home Builders Association of DE